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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement. In particular, Applicants request that Groups II and III, as those groups are identified in the Restriction, be reconsidered. It is believed those Groups could be searched and examined together without undue burden.

To provide a complete response, Applicants elect Group III, as that Group is defined in the Office Action, and which includes claims 28-29. New claims 30-31 also are within Group III.

Applicants have filed an Information Disclosure Statement for the application under separate cover. Applicants also submit herewith a copy of the International Search Report for the corresponding PCT application. The reference cited in the Search Report was included in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted, mailed August 17, 2000.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerri Pollard Schray, Reg. No. P-47,066  
Peter F. Corless, Reg. No. 33,860  
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP  
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman IP Group  
130 Water Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-4280  
Tel. (617) 523-3400  
Fax (617) 523-6440